

SWRCB Term 15 Milestone 3 Report (Windsor Update)

The Town of Windsor is continuing implementation of Stage Two Water Shortage Reduction Measures as outlined in the Town's Water Shortage Contingency Plan and as passed by resolution on July 1, 2009. Because the Town of Windsor is 100% reliant on Russian River Water for supply, businesses and residents are being asked to reduce irrigation by 50% based on 2004 water use, with businesses following a water budget approach and residents restricted to three days per week irrigation.

Water waste patrols are occurring daily throughout the Town's water service area during regular business hours to enforce water waste regulations that prohibit excess irrigation, overspray, and runoff, and to enforce the three days a week residential irrigation restriction. The Town is relying on Parks and Streets Maintenance staff for water waste enforcement Friday through Sunday, when the Town offices are closed. Town staff issued 141 written warnings for the month of August, 2009 for water waste or for irrigating outside of allowed days and times. Five fines were levied in August for failure to correct identified problems.

Public outreach and education continues through bi-monthly bill inserts, banners in prominent locations in Town, phone outreach to businesses, and a public access television slideshow. A graphic of the Town's water use is available on the Town's website that is updated weekly showing the Town's current water use compared to the 25% conservation goal. The Town was at a 19% reduction as of August 29.

The Town's popular water fountain on the Town Green, which was drained in July as a water conservation promotion, has been refilled using recycled water. New signage has been erected to draw attention to the fact that it contains recycled water and to continue to promote water conservation.

All of the Town maintained landscaping that is irrigated with potable water has been reduced to meet a 50% reduction in irrigation water use as outlined in the Town's resolution declaring a Stage Two Water Shortage Emergency. These Town landscapes are showing significant water stress at this time.

Town staff is continuing to work with the Airport Business Park management and business owners to meet the Town's 50% reduction mandate for commercial irrigation. A meeting was conducted on August 19th at the Airport Business Center's offices to provide a progress report on water savings to date and to continue with long term conservation planning. On average, businesses were running 31% below 2004 use for the period ending August 10th. Airport Business Park landscape staff expressed confidence they would be able to meet the 50% irrigation reduction goal by October 2nd.